

***In the Specification:***

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 148, lines 1-7 and replace it with the following paragraph:

***Semi-Quantitative RT-PCR.*** Total cellular RNA from whole BM was reverse-transcribed using Superscript II reverse transcriptase (Life Technologies, Rockville, USA). cDNA was PCR-amplified for 35 cycles (94°C for 30 secs.; 56°C for 30 secs.; 72°C for 60 secs.) with PCR Master Mix (Promega, Madison, USA). HPRT: 5' CACAggACTAgAACACCT gC 3' (SEQ ID NO: 6) and 5' gCTggTgAAAAAggACCTCT 3' (SEQ ID NO: 7) TGF $\beta$ ; 5' CTACTgCTTCAgCTC CACAg 3' (SEQ ID NO: 8) and 5' TgCACTTgCAggAgCgCAC 3' (SEQ ID NO: 9) and KGF: 5' gCCTTgTCACg ACCTgTTTC 3' (SEQ ID NO: 10) and 5' AgTTCACACTCgTAgCCgTTTg 3' (SEQ ID NO: 11).